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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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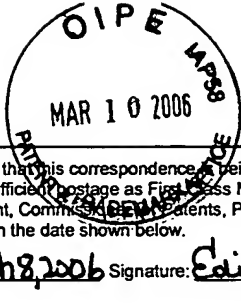
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|   |                        |                   |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b><br><br>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number     | 10/558,439 ✓      |
|   | Filing Date            | November 28, 2005 |
|   | First Named Inventor   | George C. Kennedy |
|   | Art Unit               | N/A               |
|   | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned  |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission  | Attorney Docket Number | 64561(50024)      |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached<br><input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply<br><input type="checkbox"/> After Final<br><input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request<br><input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement<br><input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application<br><input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address<br><input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer<br><input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund<br><input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC<br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences<br><input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information<br><input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):<br>Form PTO-1449 with cited foreign references; Return Receipt Postcard |
| Remarks  |  |   |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT |                                   |          |        |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Firm Name                                  | EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP |          |        |
| Signature                                  | <i>David J. Silvia</i>            |          |        |
| Printed name                               | David J. Silvia                   |          |        |
| Date                                       | March 8, 2006                     | Reg. No. | 49,036 |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below. |   |
| Dated: March 8, 2006   | Signature: <i>Edith Sillman</i> (Edith Sillman) |



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: March 8, 2006 Signature: Edith Sillman  
(Edith Sillman)

Docket No.: 64561(50024)  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
George C. Kennedy

Application No.: 10/558,439

Confirmation No.: 4604

Filed: November 28, 2005

Art Unit: N/A

For: LINEAR RETENTION SYSTEM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the receipt of a first office action in this application (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)).

Applicant has not submitted copies of each cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i), amended October 2004, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has waived this requirement for all U.S. patent applications. Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

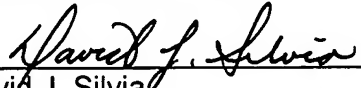
In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 64561(50024). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: March 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
David J. Silvia

Registration No.: 49,036  
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PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

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| <b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(Use as many sheets as necessary) |   |    |   | <b>Complete if Known</b> |                   |
|   |   |    |   | Application Number       | 10/558,439        |
|   |   |    |   | Filing Date              | November 28, 2005 |
|   |   |    |   | First Named Inventor     | George C. Kennedy |
|   |   |    |   | Art Unit                 | N/A               |
|   |   |    |   | Examiner Name            | Not Yet Assigned  |
| Sheet   | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number   | 64561(50024)      |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |  |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                       | AA                       | US Patent 4,550,646                      | 11.05.1985                     | Miller   |   |
|                       | AB                       | US Patent 6,209,445                      | 04.03.2001                     | Roberts, Jr. et al.                                |   |
|                       | AC                       | US RE37,483 E                            | 12.25.2001                     | Kennedy et al.                                     |   |
|                       | AD                       | US Patent 5,572,920                      | 11.12.1996                     | Kennedy et al.                                     |   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                                   |  |   |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |  |   |                |
|                          | BA                       | DE 23 56 604  | 05.15.1975                        | Nichtnennung beantragt                             |   |                |
|                          | BB                       | DE 3218000  | 11.24.1983                        | Ecker, Karl-Heinz                                  | See Abstract  |                |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                          |   |                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials            | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T <sup>2</sup> |
|                                 |                          | International Search Report dated 24 September 2004   |                |

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

|                       |  |                    |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date<br>Considered |  |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|